*125. [*The questions (Shri V. Gopalsamy and Shri K. Gopalan) were absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 34-35 infra].

US agreement with Pakistan for the supply of AWACS

*126. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:†
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Government has agree to supply AWACS to Pakistan in the near future which would pose a threat not only to India's security but also to the security of the whole sub-continent;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Although the US Administration is known to support the transfer of an Airborne Early Warning (AEW) system to Pakistan, Government are not aware of any final decision on the type of system to be supplied and the manner of its transfer. The acquisition of an AEW system by Pakistan would have serious security implications for India.

(c) The deep concern of Govenment and Parliament has been conveyed to the US Administration and members of the Congress.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any countervailing radar system or any other suitable system has been developed by us to deal with the AWACS being supplied by the U.S.A. to Pakistan.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Madam, this is a somewhat technical question and I would submit that the hon. Member address it to the Minister of Defence.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Secondly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have obtained from the U.S. Government any assurance that the AWACS will not be used for snooping into Indian territory and that this guarantee will be implemented.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: We have no assurance from the U.S. Government in this regard.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Madam, would the hon. Minister tell us whether there has been any effort on the part of the Ministry to publicise our stand on our relations with Pakistan among the non-aligned? Have we mustered any support among the non-aligned or otherwise against the U.S.A. helping Pakistan in this matter?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Madam, our efforts in this particular matter have been made known to the House and outside, in and outside the country, in the United Nations, the non aligned movement and the Commonwealth. It is the endeavour of the Ministry of External Affairs in particular and the Government in general that these activities which have an adverse effect on the security environment of our country are made known to all concerned.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Madam, in the light of the reported statement by President Zia-ul Haq that Kashmir is an integral part of Pakistan, the supply of AWACS is going to prove more dangerous to us. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action Government is going to take in this regard.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: A similar question was asked in the other House and the Prime Minister intervened to say that as far as the security of India was concerned, we would do everything that we could in our power to see that security environment is not adversely affected.